

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Fall Exercise of the 9th Tank Div in the Zeithain Area

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 9 November 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At 1630 on 10 October 1954, a shipment with T-34/85 tanks [redacted] and 1 boxcar occupied by approximately 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen on the Roederau-Elsterwerda rail line en route toward the north.¹
2. During the night of 10/11 October, a tank unit was detrained at the Wuelknitz railroad station. At about 0800 on 11 October, the following vehicles left the Zeithain training grounds toward Nieska:
 15 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]
 7 JSU-122 guns [redacted]
 armored personnel carrier [redacted]
 3 salvage tanks on T-34 chassis, 4 repair shop trucks, 2 tank trucks and 1 field kitchen.²
3. On 19 October, engineers from the Mudra Kaserne (1801) in Riesa built a pontoon bridge across the Elbe River south of Muehlberg. Units which came from the Zeithain training grounds passed over the bridge under the protection of a smoke screen. Jet aircraft were continually observed over the bridge during the daytime.
4. Between 0530 and 0900 on 20 October, 3 T-34/85 tanks continually fired eastward at the summer camp south of Muehlberg from the west bank of the Elbe River in the Goerzig-Loesnig area. At 0930, a tank unit of 10 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] escorted by approximately 50 soldiers with 4 x 57-mm and 85-mm AT guns, advanced in line to the Elbe River in the area between Goerzig and Loesnig. Four JSU-122 guns were emplaced at the west bank of the river. In the morning, the following units, which came from the Zeithain training grounds, passed the bridge from east to west:

16 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]

salvage tanks [redacted]

4 trucks towing 37-mm AA guns

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150 to 200 trucks and jeep

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15 armored personnel carriers

4 armored personnel carriers
and BA-64 armored scout cars

mounting guns

All units proceeded as far as Goerzig and, from there, turned toward Leckwitz. At 1230, the above-mentioned tanks entered the von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa from the direction of Ganzig-Weida. At about 1300, T-34/85 tanks JSU-122 guns and JSU-249 gun were seen on the east bank of the Elbe River, en route from Gohlis toward Oschatz via Riesa.³

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5. At about 1300 on 20 October, a train carrying 15 to 20 armored personnel carriers 2 BA-64 armored scout cars, 10 to 15 trucks and 4 x 57-mm AT guns was seen at the Riesa railroad station and subsequently left toward Leipzig. The majority of the numbers of the motor vehicles and armored personnel carriers was covered.

1. Comment. , the tanks presumably belonged to the 9th Tank Div.

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2. Comment. The 15 T-34/85 tanks belong to the tank battalion of the 21st Gds Mecz Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div and the SP guns presumably belonged to the 64th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the division. In the morning on 11 October, this tank unit probably moved only to the northern portion of the Zeithain training grounds since the same unit, with wheeled elements of the division from Grimma, left the training grounds toward east in the morning on 13 October.

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3. Comment. These movements were made in connection with the fall exercise of the 9th Tank Div which developed from east toward the west across the Elbe River in the section south of Muehlberg. Compare this with information on the departure of artillery units of the division from Zeithain toward Grossenhain during the afternoon of 13 October, which probably initiated this exercise. The 95th Tank Regt was possibly employed as enemy group on the west bank of the Elbe River. According to numbers of tanks and armored personnel carriers, the 108th Tank Regt and the 8th Mtz Rifle Regt presumably crossed the Elbe River, while the 23d Tank Regt left for its Oschatz post from the east bank of the river (Gohlis area).

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